

THE LACLEDE BLADE

A. J. CAYWOOD, Editor and Publisher.

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FROM what THE BLADE hears from over the county, the republican ticket is a winner from top to bottom.

BRYAN believes his grip on the democratic party is perpetual. He offered to mortgage it to Hearst and deliver it four years from now. "Shall the people rule?"

THOSE who committed the primary election frauds in St. Louis should be put in jail, but the beneficiaries of the frauds, Mr. Cowherd, for instance, should not be put in office.

BRYAN says he is the natural heir to the Roosevelt policies. Democratic newspapers and speakers are denouncing the Roosevelt policies. And yet democracy professes to believe it is going to win.

THE paper wads fired by the Kansas City Post have about the same effect on the Kansas City Star as soap bubbles on the rock of Gibraltar. The Star is the most firmly established and prosperous newspaper in the west and it will take more than a "yellow" like the Post to crowd it from the influential position it occupies in Kansas City.

THERE is little probability of any farmers leaving the republican party this fall to take up with Billy Bryan. Forty-cent oats and seventy-cent corn are good enough and the democratic party cannot hope to draw them into her ranks by howling the word "cheap." The present prices for grain and seven-cent pork sounds too good to the farmer to vote for a change.

THE past record of the republican party, together with the roster of great men who have believed in it and been a part of it, must commend itself to all thoughtful men, particularly at this time, when contrasted with disorganized democracy, which of late years has been floundering around, chasing one issue after another, in the vain hope of recommending itself to the people.

UNDER Roosevelt we have had the railroad rate law, our pure food law, our anti-trust prosecution, the conduct of the Philippines and the work on the Panama canal, all of which have commended themselves to the public. The good prices of farm products and the good wages for labor have contributed to the welfare and happiness of the nation. Today we are prosperous and successful. Why should we want a change?

Compulsory School Law

While perhaps everybody knows it, it can do no harm to quote the two first and sixth clauses of the Missouri compulsory education law:

1. Every child between 8 and 14 years old, and between 14 and 16 when not regularly employed, must attend some day school at least half the term of each year.

2. No child can be excused on promise to attend; he must attend first half of term before being excused on that account.

6. The penalty for non-attendance falls on parents or guardian, and it is a maximum fine of \$25 or imprisonment for ten days, one or both.

Quarterly Conference

The 4th quarterly conference of the Methodist church will be held next Monday morning at 10 o'clock. As this is the last quarterly conference of the Methodist church a full attendance of all the official members is earnestly requested.

E. M. DUGGER, PASTOR.

THE CAMPAIGN OPEN

The Republican State Committee to Wage an Aggressive Campaign

The republicans of Missouri are now ready for the most hopeful and, perhaps, the most successful campaign they have ever conducted. Walter S. Dickey, a successful and popular manufacturer and business man of Kansas City, has been unanimously chosen to manage the campaign as chairman of the state committee. Rush C. Lake, one of the assistants of Attorney General Hadley, has been chosen as secretary of the committee, and both are at work at state headquarters completing details of organization and developing well-defined plans for the campaign.

Headquarters were established several weeks ago in the Holland building, where one whole floor has been equipped for the business of the committee. Arrangements have been perfected for assigning speakers, for editing, printing and circulating literature and for keeping in close touch with district, county, township and precinct workers. The machinery is all ready and a master hand has a firm hold on the throttle. It is not a steam roller to be propelled against republicans, but it is a powerful machine for making smooth the road to republican success in Missouri.

It may be said that the campaign is now on, and that the two great political parties have entered upon a vigorous contest for supremacy in Missouri. At the start the democrats are on the defensive. They are in the attitude of a minority organization seeking to regain the control which they lost in 1904, and to hold the executive department of the state government, which was accorded them in 1904 by republican voters who were led into the serious mistake by the Folk craze which swept the state. The democrats, encouraged by victory won in 1906, are now hopeful that Bryanism will aid them to a greater victory this year. They believe that Missourians are so devoted to Bryan that they will be indifferent to the strong campaign which republicans will conduct in favor of better things for Missouri. They know the strength of the republican ticket, state and national, and the invincible arguments which are to be used in favor of a republican administration of state and national affairs, yet they are deluded with the claims of Bryan and really believe that sensible Missourians, who have heretofore yielded to republican appeals for better government in this state, will this year be deaf to reason and attentive to the glittering generalities of the Bryan campaign.

They will be disappointed. The republicans who were elected four years ago have demonstrated the difference between a merely political administration of public affairs and a business administration, conscientiously and intelligently devoted to the interests of the people.

The campaign is to be a business proposition so far as the republicans are concerned. They do not propose to follow the democrats back to forty years ago and discuss issues and policies which belonged to that period, nor will they go back ten years. They will discuss the situation as the people of today know it. They will show how republican state officials have conducted the affairs of the people on business principles and achieved results which have never even been attempted by democrats. They will show that the state has saved and earned hundreds of thousands of dollars in three and one-half years through the efficiency of republican officials; that the consti-

tution and laws of the state have been obeyed and honored, and that the pull of the politicians and graft of the grafters have been met with firm, decisive adherence to duty and good judgment. They will show how Missouri laws have been enforced by a brilliant attorney-general so resolutely that other states have been free to follow the example and take advantage of his achievements. They will show that a republican auditor has safely and honestly collected the revenues and guarded the money of the people against unlawful and untimely expenditure, making even the governor adhere to the letter and spirit of the laws governing the finances of the state. They will show how a republican state treasurer has made the money of the people earn sufficient interest while in the hands of bankers to pay all of the salaries of the elective and appointive officers of the state government, and more, too. They will show how a republican secretary of state has made banks remain solvent or close their doors, and that with small loss to depositors and with small embarrassment to kindred institutions; and has so managed corporations that they have complied with the law and paid into the treasury thousands of dollars which would otherwise never have been collected.

All of these things they will show, and more, for they have the books of the preceding administrations and have discovered the devious pathways of the Missouri democracy. They know what has been the trouble with Missouri and what is the remedy for every trouble they have discovered. They are not to be drawn into discussions which affect only party politics, but will discuss matters which affect the political welfare and the material, social and moral interests of the people.

The republicans propose to make this an instructive campaign. The people will be given facts and figures as well as sound arguments. They will be shown, as all Missourians desire to be shown. There will be plenty of information and but few platitudes for the speakers and writers who engage in the campaign. When people go out to hear a speaker sent from headquarters they will hear something up-to-date and interesting, for they will hear the affairs of the state discussed. Speakers sent from the national committee into the state will discuss the issues of the national campaign intelligently, but the home speakers will have more to say about the issues of the state campaign. Those issues have been very clearly defined in the party platform. They are real issues. They are matters of moment which intelligent people will desire to have discussed on the stump and in the newspapers. They will be

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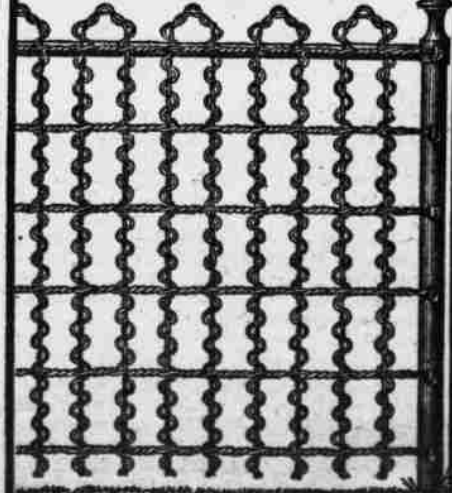
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discussed with facts and figures at hand to convince the skeptical. They will be presented to Missourians in the spirit of state pride. The old issues which divided Missourians twenty and thirty and forty years ago are dead and gone, like the statesmen of those days. The issues of the day are here to be met and to be determined, and the republicans will present such issues.

Yes, the campaign is now open. The speakers are on the stump and the busy writers are sharpening their pencils to write brilliant editorials. They will have plenty of information for editorials and speeches, because the state committee has prepared for that kind of a campaign. Every democrat in Missouri may feel assured that there will be something developed in this campaign to challenge his attention, and perhaps many democrats will feel that what they hear and read demands that they break away from the party of promises and prophecies and join hands with the party of progress and prosperity.